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STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN NASA ROCKET LAUNCH

Students from as far away as Alaska will participate in the launch of a suborbital rocket on June 7 at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., when more than 35 students and teachers from across the country converge on Wallops for Flight Week.

During Flight Week, students will get a behind-the-scenes look at the preparations for a NASA rocket mission and will participate in the final reviews to clear the rocket and experiments for launch.

Thirteen schools and organizations will fly 14 experiments on a single stage Orion sounding rocket. They are: Parkside High School and Cub Scout Pack 151, both in Salisbury, Md.; Columbus (Ga.) High School; Glenbrook North High School, Northbrook, Ill.; Key Peninsula Middle School, Lakebay, Wash.; Wendover (Utah) High School; Graham High School, St. Paris, Ohio; Franke Park Elementary School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; James River High School, Midlothian, Va.; and Sterling (Alaska) Elementary School.

In addition, the students traveling to Wallops will participate in workshops on rocketry and Range Control Center operations, and tour the rocket, scientific balloon and aircraft facilities.

In its ninth year, this program provides students the unique opportunity to participate in all aspects of a science mission. Five of the experiments will fly in the main body of the rocket's payload section, called the Suborbital Student Experiment Module, while the other nine will be placed in the nosecone.

Scheduled for launch between 6 and 9 a.m., EDT, the 20-foot rocket is expected to carry the experiments more than 25 miles above the Earth. After descending by parachute and landing in the Atlantic Ocean, the experiments will be recovered and returned to the students later in the day. The students will examine and analyze their experiment data and present their preliminary findings to NASA personnel the following day.

Wireless communications, magnetic fields, fluids and payload temperatures during flight are the focus of the main payload experiments. Students also will study the effects of the flight environment, such as radiation and high gravitational forces, on a variety of materials placed in the nosecone and the payload section.

For further information about NASA education programs on the Internet, visit:

<http://education.nasa.gov/home/index.html>